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Hoover Bars FBI From Crime Panel

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has refused to testify and will not permit any of his subordinates to testify before the House Crime Committee. His refusal drew a sharp rebuke yesterday from one member of the panel.

Rep. Jerome Waldie (D-Calif.) charged that the newly formed committee could not effectively perform its mission "without the cooperation of the top law enforcement agency in the federal government."

The select committee, created earlier this year, has been charged by the House to examine all facets of crime, including causes, methods of control, and efforts to rehabilitate criminals.

Committee Chairman Claude Pepper (D-Fla.), wrote Hoover about three weeks ago and invited him to testify, according to a committee spokesman. Hoover, through a deputy, replied that the testified only before the House and Senate Appropriations committees, in appearances which traditionally are closed.

Waldie, at a hearing of the committee yesterday, noted the FBI also declined to send some other official of the agency. Waldie said he regretted Hoover's stand because he had several questions he wanted to ask about funding and policy.